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1908

Catalogue and Price List
OF THE
ALPHA
Fruit Farm and Nursery



ALPHA
FRUIT FARM AND NURSERY.



*GEORGE G. WIRT, Proprietor
ALPHA, ILLINOIS*

Our aim is to grow only the very best, most hardy and productive varieties of Northern varieties of fruit trees and plants in the very best possible manner.

General Information

Orders should be sent in early on a separate sheet from letter. We will pay the freight to your nearest railroad station on all orders of \$5 or over, received by us before the 10th day of March, 1908.

CLUB ORDERS—If you do not wish \$5.00 worth, get your neighbors to club with you and we will tie and label each order separate and ship together and pay freight.

TERMS—Cash or satisfactory reference from unknown parties before shipment. Six at dozen rates, 50 at 100 rates.

PACKING—These prices are for stock well packed and delivered at the railroad station here.

REPLACING—We replace all stock that dies the first season at half price, providing a list of the stock that dies is sent to us before the 1st of March, 1909.

MISTAKES cheerfully corrected, but no claims allowed unless made within seven days after the stock is received.

WE WARRANT ALL STOCK TRUE TO NAME, with the agreement that should any not prove true we will return the money paid for said stock, or replace with stock that is; but are not liable for damages other than herein named.

PLANTING—Cut all side limbs back to two or three buds and shorten the top; make the holes plenty large so as not to crowd the roots, and plant at the same depth as they grew in the nursery. See that the roots are well spread out; use surface soil for filling, pressing it firmly around them; do not hurry the job; do it well and success is certain. Trees and plants should not long be exposed to the sun and air. Never put manure in the holes next to the roots; it causes decay. Plant strawberries with spade or dibble; spread roots out fan shape.

Proper Distances Between Trees and Plants

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Apples | 30 by 30 ft. | Raspberries | 2½ by 8 ft. |
| Pears | 20 by 20 ft. | Blackberries | 2½ by 8 ft. |
| Plums | 16 by 16 ft. | Strawberries and Asparagus | |
| Peaches | 16 by 16 ft. |16 in. in row; rows 4 ft. apart | |
| Cherries | 16 by 16 ft. | | |

The number of plants required for an acre may be ascertained by dividing the number of square feet in an acre (43,560) by the number of square feet given to each plant.

APPLES

5 to 6 ft., 20c each; \$2.00 per 12.

SUMMER VARIETIES

ASTRACHAN RED—Large, roundish, nearly covered with crimson; juicy, sub-acid, tree a strong, spreading grower; good bearer. August.

RED JUNE—Medium oblong, hardy and productive, deep red color; flesh white tender rich sub-acid. August.

DUCHESS OF OLDENBURG—Tree a vigorous grower, very hardy, early and abundant bearer; large size, roundish, streaked with red and yellow; flesh white, juicy, sprightly, sub-acid. August and September.

YELLOW TRANSPARENT—Medium, yellow; good quality; productive; excellent, bears early. Middle of August.

AUTUMN VARIETIES.

BAILEY'S SWEET—Large, crimson, superb, sweet, tender, excellent, vigorous, hardy, and productive. October and November.

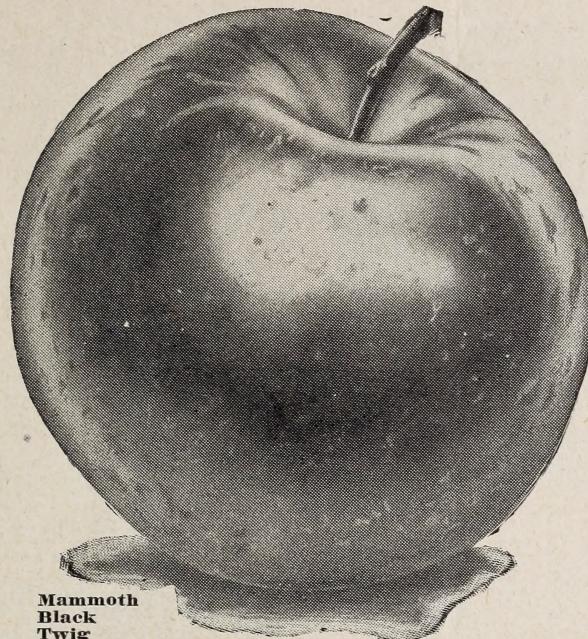
FAMEUSE (Snow)—Medium; deep crimson flesh snowy white, tender, melting and delicious; excellent quality; November to January.

WEALTHY—Large, roundish; smooth, nearly covered with dark red; flesh white, fine, juicy, sub-acid; quality very good; good grower and productive. October.

WINTER VARIETIES.

BEN DAVIS—Large, handsome, striped; good; hardy, vigorous and productive; late keepers; very showy; most profitable market variety. December to March.

GANO—Good size, smooth and very attractive; deep red; resembles Ben Davis, but is an improvement on that variety, being handsomer and better colored. December to March.



**Mammoth
Black
Twig**

tremely hardy and a strong, handsome grower. December to April.

ROMAN STEM—Medium; yellow, sometimes with red cheek; excellent, vigorous, upright, productive, profitable. November to February.

SALOME—Medium, yellow and red, very handsome, flesh whitish yellow, tender slightly aromatic; its handsome, long keeping and uniform size makes it a valuable apple; tree a hardy, vigorous, upright grower. January to May.

STAYMAN'S WINESAP—Seedling of Winesap; vigorous grower; early and abundant bearer; fruit medium to large, much resembling Winesap; quality unsurpassed; late keeper.

WINESAP—Medium; roundish; deep red; firm, crisp, juicy; excellent quality; moderate grower and good bearer; succeeds well throughout the West; very profitable. December to May.

CRAB APPLES

25 Cents Each.

HYSLOP—Dark crimson, with bloom; very showy and popular on account of its hardiness.

PEARS

5 to 6 ft., 35c each; \$4.00 per 12.

SUMMER-VARIETY

BARTLETT—Large size; color rich yellow with often a beautiful blush next the sun. Buttery, very juicy and highly flavored. August and September.

LINCOLN—Tree hardy, strong grower, remarkably free from blight; an abundant and early bearer; fruit large and a beautiful, golden yellow of the very best quality; flesh fine, very sprightly, rich, juicy, highly flavored. August and September. 50 cents each.

AUTUMN-VARIETY

KEIFFER—A vigorous grower, and an early bearer; very productive; fruit large, golden yellow, with red cheek. October.

CHERRIES

4 to 6 ft., 40c each; \$4.50 per 12.

EARLY RICHMOND—Medium, red; early, hardy, immensely productive. Ripens last of June.

MONTMORENCY—Large, fruit beautiful dark red, sub-acid; of the very best quality; ten days later than the Early Richmond; a fine shaped tree; hardy and productive.

QUINCE

3 to 4 ft., 35 Cents Each.

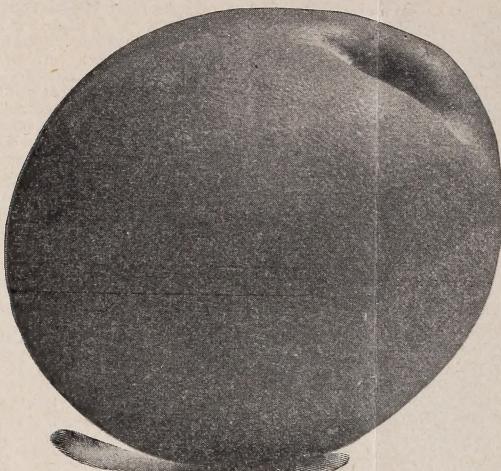
ORANGE—Large, roundish, bright yellow, of excellent quality, productive.

GRIMES' GOLDEN PIPPIN—Medium; golden yellow, with white dots; crisp, tender and juicy; excellent; tree vigorous, hardy and productive. November to January.

JONATHAN—Medium; red and yellow; very showy; juicy, excellent; tree slender and spreading; bears early; very productive. November to February.

MAMMOTH BLACK TWIG—Large; deep red; sub-acid; early and abundant bearer; keeps well; tree a strong grower; resembles Winesap, but is superior in many ways, and fully one-third larger. January to April.

NORTHWESTERN GREENING—Large, smooth, greenish yellow; flesh fine grained, firm and juicy; good quality; ex-



Elberta

PEACHES

4 to 6 ft., 20c each, 12, \$2

ALEXANDER—Of large size, nearly round; skin greenish white, nearly covered with deep red, turning to almost purple in the sun; flesh firm, white, juicy and sweet, adhering slightly to the stone, which is small. July.

CHAMPION—Fruit large, delicious, sweet, juicy; best quality of all early varieties; skin creamy white, with red cheek; handsome, hardy and productive and a good shipper. Early Aug.

CROSBY—Medium size; bright yellow, streaked with carmine; annual bearer; hardy. Last of August.

ELBERTA—Very large, yellow with red cheek; juicy and high flavor; flesh yellow; very profitable and an excellent shipping variety. Last of August.

PLUMS

4 to 6 ft., 35c each; \$4.00 per 12.

ABUNDANCE—The fruit is very large, showy and beautiful, amber colored, turning to a rich bright cherry, with a decided white bloom and highly perfumed; flesh light yellow, exceedingly juicy and tender and delicious. July.

BURBANK—Very similar to Abundance, but of deeper color and ripens later in the season. The fruit is large, nearly globular, clear cherry-red, with a thin lilac bloom. Flesh deep yellow. The tree is a vigorous grower. August.

BLUE DAMSON—Fruit small size, juicy, rather tart, good quality dark purple, covered with a blue bloom; productive. September.

RED JUNE—A vigorous, hardy, upright spreading tree as productive as Abundance. Fruit medium to large, deep vermillion-red, with handsome bloom; very showy. Flesh light lemon-yellow, slightly sub-acid of good and pleasant quality. Pit small. Early.

WILD GOOSE—Hardy, native, large, deep red, with purplish bloom. Flesh yellow, juicy and sweet. Rapid grower, early and abundant bearer. July and August.

STRAWBERRIES

Perfect Flowering Except as Noted.

By Mail, 5c per 12; 25c per 100 Extra.

Strawberries are a specialty with us; we have been growing them for the market for twenty-five years and our experience has taught us that there is only a few varieties that are profitable for market or family use; we have tested over one hundred varieties and have selected the kinds we offer as being the very best, in productiveness, size, color, firmness and richness of flavor; we have a large stock of extra fine plants for spring delivery. Special prices quoted on large orders.

SENATOR DUNLAP—Fruit good size, regular form, beautiful bright red, glossy, firm, splendid keeper and shipper; excellent quality; one of the best for canning; ripens early and continues a long time. It promises to stand at the head in its wonderful ability to ripen a good crop under almost any condition of drought or neglect. Price, 25c per dozen; 75c per 100; \$3.00 per 500.

GANDY and BRANDYWINE—Two of the extra largest and the very latest berries; most of the crop of these ripen after all other varieties are gone. Our plants of these two varieties are mixed about half and half of each. 25c per dozen; \$1.00 per 100.

SYN GLEN MARY—A large berry of the highest quality; deep red all the way through; a sweet rich flavor; the plants are vigorous and healthy; very productive; 25c per dozen; \$1.00 per 100.

SAMPLE—A large, bright red, firm berry; very rich, juicy and highly flavored; very productive; late; imperfect flower. 25c per dozen; \$1.00 per 100.



Senator Dunlap

PRIDE OF MICHIGAN—Our New Strawberry—We place this variety first on our list because it is first in every way. Pride of Michigan is, without doubt, the best and most profitable variety of strawberry ever introduced in the United States. This grand variety was introduced by us last year. This summer we examined the fruit carefully all through fruiting season, and say in all honesty that it cannot be beaten. This season made five consecutive years that we have watched the Pride of Michigan and every year it has proven itself to be the most profitable variety we have. We firmly believe that when fruit-growers through the country try this berry they will want a quantity of them. It is certainly a beauty from every standpoint. Plant is perfect and berry is perfect. Here are the qualities that makes it the most valuable variety: Productiveness—will outyield any other variety; color dark red all through; season second early (ripens with Senator Dunlap); size, about like Haverland and Glen Mary; shipping quality, the best; very tough skin, and a firm berry; shape, rather oblong, resembles Haverland; never misshapen; blossom, perfect (a strong fertilizer); plant, very vigorous and healthy (a good plant maker); fruit stems are strong, stand up well and there are plenty of them. What more could one ask for in the way of qualifications of a perfect strawberry? We confidently recommend this new variety to our customers and friends; it is a money maker. We even urge all to buy Pride of Michigan. There will be money in it for you.

The above description is from the introducer of this berry of whom we got our plants last season. While we have not fruited it except a few berries last spring set, it has the appearance of being a fine berry. We have a limited stock of fine plants at the following prices: 35c per 12; 75c per 50.

GRAPES—Two Years

CAMPBELL'S EARLY—A variety that cannot be to highly recommended. a strong, vigorous grower; very hardy, and very early; an abundant bearer; bunches and berries very large, glossy black color; pulp sweet and juicy, with few seeds, which are small; ripens with the Moore's Early, but will hang on the vines until frost; we have kept them in baskets in fine condition until December. Two-year, 35 cents each; 3 for \$1.00.

CONCORD—Black, the most popular grape in America; bunch and berries large; hardy, healthy and productive. 10c each; \$1.00 per 12.

AGAWAM—Red or maroon color; berries large; of a rich, peculiar aromatic flavor; ripens about with Concord; a good keeper; vine a strong, rank grower, hardy and productive. 15c each; \$1.50 per 12.

LUTI—Dark red, bunch and berry medium; flesh pulp and sweet; vine very hardy, vigorous and productive; ripens about with Moore's Early. Strong 1-year, 15c each; \$1.50 per 12.

MOORE'S EARLY—Bunch large, berry round, black, very early; ripens ten days before Concord. With high cultivation produces a heavy crop. 15 cents each; \$1.50 per 12.

MOORE'S DIAMOND—White; bunch and berries large; flesh tender, juicy; hardy, productive, early; fine quality. 15c each; \$1.50 per 12.

RASPBERRIES

35c per dozen; \$2.00 per 100.

CUMBERLAND—One of the largest black raspberries known; has been well tested in nearly all sections, giving thorough satisfaction; in hardiness and productiveness it is unexcelled; the quality is the very best; the fruit is firm and will stand long shipments; it commences to ripen mid-season and continues a long time; the bush is healthy and vigorous, and well adapted for supporting their loads of large fruit.

EUREKA—Very early and productive; fruit large; black; hardy.

COLUMBIAN—New; deep purplish red; sweet and highly flavored; extra strong canes; wonderfully productive; berry large.

LOUDON—The best red raspberry; productive; large size; bright color; very hardy; good shipper.

BLACKBERRIES

ELDORADO—Among the good points of this valuable new blackberry are great productiveness, hardiness, extra fine quality and sweetness of flavor; without core, the berries are large, jet black, borne in clusters and ripen well together; sweet, melting, rich and pleasant to the taste. Price, 50 cents per dozen; 3.00 per 100.

SNYDER—A strong grower; very hardy and very productive; of medium size. Price, 35c per dozen; \$2.00 per 100.

GOOSEBERRIES

CHAMPION—A new variety introduced from Oregon, where it originated; bush a strong, upright grower, very hardy and enormously productive; fruit large, round, entirely free from mildew and easily gathered; we have tested most all varieties and discarded them, as they were so much inferior to the champion; 15 cents each; \$1.50 per 12.

CURRANTS

POMONA—Fruit clear bright red, almost transparent; has but few small seeds; hangs a long time after ripe; vigorous, healthy, hardy; most productive; quality best; good shipper. 10c each; \$1.00 per dozen.

BLACK ENGLISH—Largest and best of the blacks. 10c each; \$1.00 per doz.

CHERRY—Berries very large; a good grower; only moderately productive; 10c each; \$1.00 per dozen.

WHITE GRAPE—A good grower, berries yellowish white, sweet and mild; 10c each; \$1.00 per dozen.

PIEPLANT

LINNAEUS—Large early, tender and fine; the very best of all. 10 cents each, \$1.00 per dozen.

ASPARAGUS

25c per 12; \$1.00 per 100.

CONOVER'S COLOSAL—Produces large, tender shoots of vigorous growth. **Mammoth White**—A distinct variety of mammoth size, remarkable for the clear whiteness of its stocks.

ORNAMENTAL TREES

| | Each | Each | |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|-----|
| CATALPA —5 to 6 ft..... | 25c | WHITE BIRCH —5 to 6 ft..... | 25c |
| CAROLINA POPLAR —5 to 6 ft.. | 25c | RUSSIAN MULBERRY —5 to 6 ft. 25c | |
| ELM —5 to 6 ft..... | 25c | SOFT MAPLE —5 to 6 ft..... | 25c |
| MOUNTAIN ASH —5 to 6 ft. | 25c | TULIP TREE —3 to 5 ft..... | 35c |

CATALPA SEEDLINGS—\$1.00 per 100; \$4.00 per 500; \$7.00 per 1000—These are the hardy Speciosa. For posts they should be planted 4x4 feet on rich ground and given good cultivation for two or three years; this is very important to get a straight, strong growth; at one or two years old cut them back to the ground; they will then throw up a straight shoot; the government report claims they will last as long as red cedar or hedge and should make a good post in half the time.

CATALPA, Bungei (Umbrella Catalpa)—Grafted on stems six to eight feet high, it makes an umbrella-shaped top without pruning. Perfectly hardy. Leaves large, glossy, heart-shaped, deep green; lay like shingles on a roof. \$1.00 each.

BIRCH.

CUT LEAVED WEEPING—Erect, stately, rapid, hardy, with long, fine pendant branches and delicately cut leaves; the trunk very white; no tree more elegant for the lawn or yard. Undoubtedly the most popular of all weeping trees. 6 to 7 ft. \$1.00 each.

MULBERRY.

TEA'S WEEPING—A variety of the well-known Russian Mulberry. Forms a perfect umbrella-shaped head, with long, slender branches which droop to the ground, parallel with the stem. Very beautiful and hardy. \$1.25 each.

WILLOW

KILMARNOCK WEEPING—An exceedingly graceful tree; very hardy. 75c.

EVERGREENS.

| | Each | Each | |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| AROBR VITAE —2 to 3 ft..... | 25c | BALSAM FIR —2 to 3 ft..... | 25c |
| NORWAY SPRUCE —2 to 3 ft..... | 25c | IRISH JUNIPER —2 to 3 ft..... | 35c |
| WHITE PINE —2 to 3 ft..... | 25c | ARBOR VITAE —12 to 18 in. for | |
| RED CEDAR —12 to 15 in. | 20c | for hedges | 10c |

\$2.00 per dozen.

SPECIAL PRICES ON LARGE SHADE TREES—F. O. B. Cars Here.

| | Each | Each | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----|
| EUROPEAN WHITE BIRCH | | | |
| 8 to 10 ft..... | 50c | 8 to 10 ft..... | 50c |
| 10 to 12 ft..... | 75c | 10 to 12 ft..... | 75c |
| SOFT MAPLE —4 to 6 ft..... | 15c | | |
| 4 to 6 ft. | \$8.00 per 100 | AM. ARBOR VITAE | |
| 6 to 8 ft. | 25c | 3 to 4 ft..... | 35c |
| 8 to 10 ft. | 35c | 4 to 5 ft..... | 45c |

SHRUBS

25c Each.

ALMONDS, DOUBLE FLOWERING—Dwarf, pink; flowers like small roses; very double; early; profuse.

ALTHEA, ROSE OF SHARON—One of the most showy and beautiful shrubs. Flowers large, double. Blooms freely in August and September when few other trees or shrubs are in blossom. Colors, red and rose.

BARBERRY, THUNBERGII—A very pretty variety from Japan; of dwarf graceful habit; foliage small, changing to beautiful bright red early in fall; very showy.

CALYCANTHUS (Sweet-Scented Shrub)—The wood is fragrant, foliage rich; flowers are of chocolate color, having a peculiarly agreeable odor. Flowers in June and at intervals afterwards.

DEUTZIA—Hardy, fine habit, luxuriant foliage; large double white flowers, produced the latter part of June in racemes four to six inches long.

HARDY HYDRANGIA—This is one of the most valuable hardy shrubs. It attains a height of three or four feet, and is perfectly hardy in all parts of the country. The flowers are white, borne in immense panicles nearly a foot in length. It commences flowering in July and continues until November. The plant should be cut back every spring at least one-half of last season's growth as the flowers are borne on new wood.

HONEYSUCKLE—Upright. Red Tartarian—A well-known shrub; flowers bright pink, which appear in May.

White Tartarian—Like the preceding, but has white flowers.

LILAC—Purple—A standard variety; always good; profuse bloomer.

White—A well-known white lilac, flowers slightly cream colored.

SNOWBERRY—A very pretty shrub, with clusters of rose colored flowers early in spring, followed by waxy white berries, which hang on through part of the winter.

Snowberry, Red Fruited—Similar to above, except berries are bright red.

SNOWBALL—A magnificent old favorite, tall growing shrub with very showy, pure white flowers produced in large balls.

SYRINGA—Of vigorous habit very hardy with large handsome foliage and beautiful white flowers.

SPIREA VAN HOUTEI—The most beautiful of all Spireas; an immense bloomer; pure snow white flowers; early; hardy.

SPIREA BILLARDI—Rose colored flowers in large spikes; blooms all summer; very pretty and showy; grows four feet high.

SPIREA ANTHONY WATERER—Dwarf; this beautiful variety produces flowers of a bright crimson and blossoms so freely that it may be kept flowering through the summer till late fall by trimming away the dead flowers; in growth it makes a large round head; one to two feet high.

SUMACH (Cut Leaf)—A very striking plant of moderate size with deeply cut leaves resembling fern leaves dark green above and glaucous below and turning to a rich red in autumn.

WEIGELIAS—Beautiful shrubs that bloom in June and July; well-known. The flowers are produced in great profusion, as almost entirely to hide the foliage; colors white, pink and bright red.

CLEMATIS.

JACKMANII—A very profuse blooming variety, with flowers from four to six inches in diameter, of an intense violet, purple color, borne successively in continuous masses on the summer shoots. 60c each.

HENRYII—Large, pure white flowering. 60c each.

PANICULATA—New. A strong, vigorous grower, very free flowering; pure white, unusually fragrant. 35c each.

WISTARIA, PURPLE—One of the finest climbers, of rapid growth and perfectly hardy, with long pendulous clusters of bluish purple flowers in June. 25c each.

WISTARIA, ALBA—Same as above except the flowers are a pure white.

HONEYSUCKLE, SACRED TRUMPET—One of the handsomest in cultivation; coral flowers; very vigorous and hardy; blooming all summer. 25c each.

VIRGINIA CREEPER or AMERICAN IVY (A. Quinquefolia)—A native vine of rapid growth, with large luxuriant foliage, which, in the autumn, assumes the most gorgeous and magnificent coloring. 25c each.

ROSES

HYBRID PERPETUALS. 25c Each.

COQUETTE DES BLANCHES—Pure white, very beautiful. We think this the best pure white hybrid perpetual.

GENERAL JACQUEMINOT—Brilliant velvety crimson; large, showy and a fine grower; a magnificent variety.

MAGNA CHARTA—A general favorite, prized on account of its strong, upright growth and bright healthy foliage, as well as for its magnificent bloom. The color is beautiful bright pink.

PAUL NEYRON—Deep, shining rose, very fresh and pretty. Flowers large, often measuring five inches in diameter. The buds always develop fine, perfect roses.

BABY RAMBLER—Dwarf in habit, very hardy, blood red in color blooming all summer and as a pot rose will bloom all winter; 40c each.

CLIMBING ROSES. 25c Each

CRIMSON RAMBLER—It is a vigorous grower; flowers glowing crimson and produced in immense panicles.

PRAIRIE QUEEN—The flowers are very large and of peculiar globular form. Bright rosy-red, changing to lighter as flower opens. Of very strong, rapid growth.

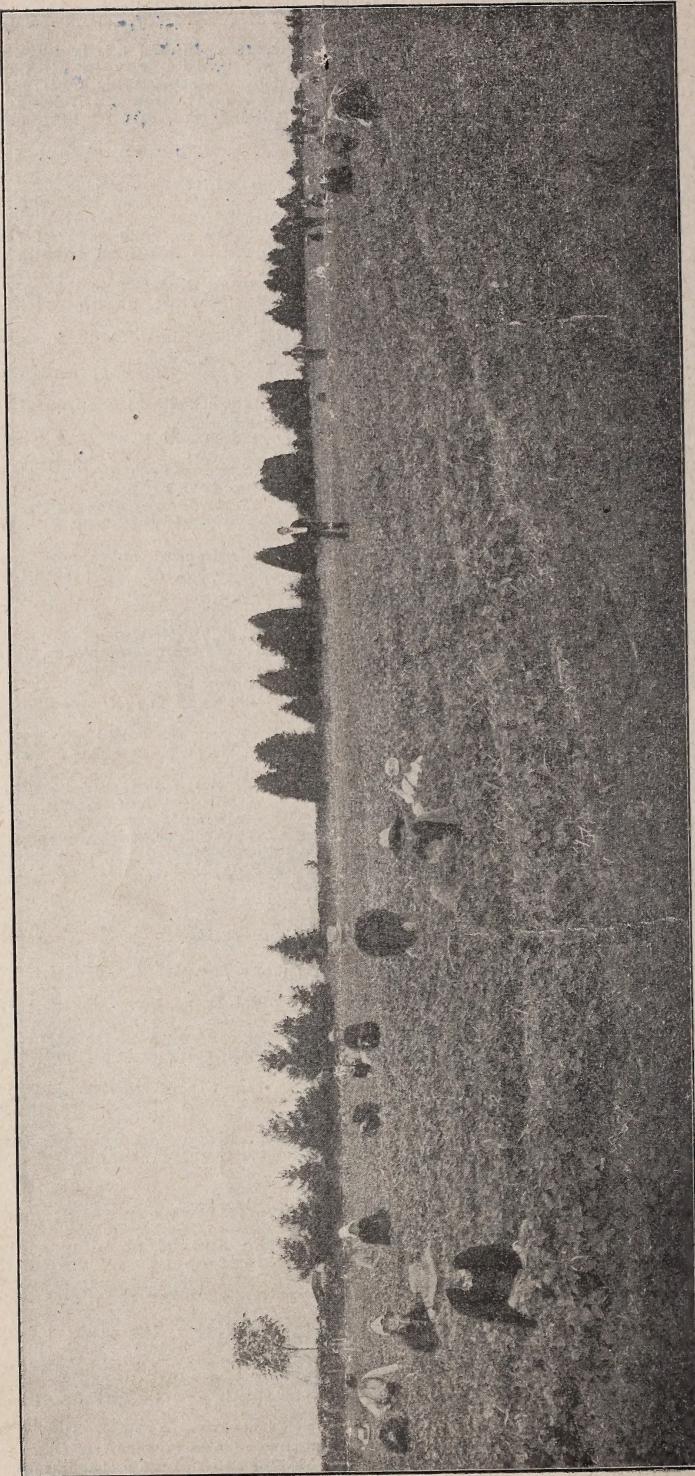
BALTIMORE BELLE—Pale blush, variegated carmine-rose and white; very double. Flowers in beautiful clusters.

CANNAS—Tall-growing, purple and green leaf varieties; 10c each; 3 for 25c.

PAEONIES—A gorgeous flower rivaling the rose in beauty, and the dark green leaves are at all times very attractive; hardy as an oak and once planted will take care of themselves. Colors red and white. 25c each.

TREE PAEONY—Red; bush or tree form, attaining a height of three to five feet; 75c each.

YUCCA—A tropical looking plant with long narrow leaves; the flower stalks rise from the center about three feet high and are covered with creamy white, bell-shaped flowers, forming a perfect pyramid, perfectly hardy, the leaves staying green all winter. Strong 2-year plants, 25c each.



Picking Strawberries from one of the Fields of the Alpha Fruit Farm and Nursery